

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document submitted May 7, 2002.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the Formal Drawings filed on December 28, 2001 are accepted.

Status of the Application

Claims 1 and 4-37 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 16-37 are hereby added, and as claims 2 and 3 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-15 have been rejected.

Specification Objections

The Examiner has objected to the Specification for various informalities.

Regarding the Examiner's objection to the list "Cr, Cu and Cr," Applicants respectfully submit that this list is correct. Specifically, Applicants direct the Examiner to page 23, lines 17, 24 and 26 of the Application, which indicate that "Cr, Cu, and Cr films having thicknesses of 50 nm, 1 μ m, and 100 nm, respectively." In other words, each of the bottom electrode, the bus electrode and the second external repeating terminal may be composed of a three layer structure of Cr/Cu/Cr.

The remainder of the informalities noted by the Examiner are hereby corrected. Thus, withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected: (1) claims 1, 3, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Osada et al. (US 6,066,916; hereinafter “Osada”); (2) claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osada; and (3) claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohki et al. (US 6,545,396; hereinafter “Ohki”) in view of Osada. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner takes the position that all of the features of claim 1 are disclosed by Osada, or that all of the features of claim 1 are disclosed by Ohki, as modified by Osada.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Osada, Ohki, nor any reasonable combination thereof teaches or suggests that “said respective second external repeating terminals are alternatingly arranged with the first electrodes, whereby the first and second external repeating terminals are alternatingly provided in the part of said peripheral region,” as recited in independent claim 1.

Specifically, Osada discloses an electroluminescent matrix display device (see FIG. 1) with a display area A composed of orthogonally crossed electrodes 2a and 3 arranged on a substrate 1. Terminals 21 and 31 are arranged along an edge of the substrate 1. Terminals 31 are directly connected to the ends of electrodes 3, while terminals 21 are connected to the ends of electrodes 2a by way of lead portions 2b and 2c, which are arranged orthogonally to each other. Terminals 21 are provided in groups on the left and right hand sides of the edge of substrate 1, while terminals 31 are provided in a single group in the center.

Thus, it is clear that Osada discloses separate groups of terminals 21 and 31 formed along a peripheral side of substrate 1. Osada does not teach or suggest any arrangement where respective first electrodes are alternatingly arranged with the second external repeating terminals, nor an arrangement where the first and second external repeating terminals are alternatingly arranged.

Ohki similarly fails to teach or suggest such features. Rather, Ohki discloses an image forming device (see FIG. 1) composed of cathode electric lines 2 and gate electrode lines 4 orthogonally arranged on substrate 1. Field emission electron surface arrays 3 are arranged at intersections of lines 2 and 4.

Thus, Ohki fails to teach or suggest any structure that is at all similar to the alternating first and second repeating terminals recited in claim 1. Further, Ohki does not even teach or suggest the use of insulating layers or films between the second electrodes and the first electrodes or between the second electrodes and the back substrate.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Osada, Ohki, nor any reasonable combination thereof, teaches or suggests “respective second external repeating terminals extending from a part of the peripheral region between respective pairs of adjacent first electrodes and connected to said second electrodes in the emitting region,” as recited in claim 1.

Clearly, none of the terminals 21 or 31 of Osada are arranged between any of the electrodes 2 or 3, and, as discussed above, no specific terminals are taught or suggested by Ohki.

Lastly, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention yields advantageous effects of facilitating easy assembly of a unit of a flat panel structure with emission devices of a matrix array in the display device. The feature of the second external repeating terminals being arranged between respective pairs of adjacent first electrodes and extending therebetween is not known in the art or obvious to the skilled artisan.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over (*i.e.*, is not anticipated and would not have been obvious from) the applied references. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that rejected dependent claims 4-15 are allowable, *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these rejections.

New Claims

Claims 16-37 are hereby added. Claims 16-30 are fully supported *at least* by page 11, lines 24-27 and FIGS. 5, 16 and 21 of the instant Application. New claims 31-34 are fully supported by the descriptions of the backside substrate throughout the Application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 4-37 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1 and 4-37.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/028,994

Attorney Docket # Q67877

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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